

INDIANA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Indiana Government Center South - Conference Center Room A
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Commission Members in Attendance: Noble Stallons, Ed Gottschling, Richard (Dick) Grace, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Anita McColleston, Humbert Lopes

Commission Members Absent: Geneva Sams, Glen Bonsett, John (Bob) Johnson

Visitors in Attendance: Kathy Williams, Orion Bell, John Holmes

Call to Order: Chairperson Noble Stallons called the meeting to order and the September minutes were approved with unanimous approval.

At the last meeting Humbert Lopes had asked Matt Naikelis for information concerning aging services in Indiana. Matt directed them to www.in.gov/fssa/da where there is a link on the left side called "Map of Services by County." Aging services for specific areas can be viewed from this link.

Matt said the Division is currently working on the State Plan for the Administration on Aging. This plan will show how the Division will coordinate services from 2011 to 2015 for older adults. The Division is at the end of the stimulus money for the nutrition and older worker program that must be spent by June 30, 2010. Matt also reported that the Division's federally funded Money Follows the Person (MFP) program that targets those who have been in a nursing home for at least 6 months has transitioned 30 individuals back into the community.

Richard Grace wanted to know about the strategic plan for 2011-2015. Matt said that the Division gives the Administration on Aging an update on what Indiana is accomplishing and what the Area Agencies on Aging are planning for the next 4 years. The AAAs were asked to organize six goals, three of which were specific goals (access to transportation, caregiver program, and meal site awareness) and the other three were to shed light on areas each Agency thought they could improve upon.

Matt was asked by the Commissioners if he could get the annual report for 2009 (with an Executive Summary). They also asked for a comparison between 2008 -2009 and what progress Indiana made in shifting funds to community-based care.

Kathy Williams from I-4A informed the Commissioners that the General Assembly is going into session from January 5th to March 14th. Before the start of the session there are a number of bills that hearings will take place on between now and January 5th.

The Senate Minority has already scheduled a hearing on Dec. 8th of Senate Resolution 1, which concerns extending property tax caps into the Constitution and Senate Bill 23 which would delay the date in which an employer would have to increase their contribution into the unemployment fund. In the House they have four bills filed that need to be heard before the session starts. One bill would prevent FSSA from contracting with private groups to do eligibility, administration, Medicaid, food stamps and TANF. Another bill concerns property tax caps as some counties want to limit how much a home's assessed value can increase over a year.

Ms. Williams commented that I-4A is actively partnering with AARP to see how Indiana can move forward to improve Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The 2008 AARP report ranked Indiana 48th nationally on how much Medicaid spent on HCBS for 2007. Furthermore, only 5% of Indiana's Medicaid long-term care dollars were going towards older adults/ adults with physical disabilities for HCBS, as opposed to 95% going towards nursing home care for those individuals.

In 2003 the General Assembly passed the Budget Enrollment Act 493 which requires a rebalancing of the long-term care system. Kathy commended Secretary Anne Murphy for investigating the eligibility process. Kathy also applauded Division of Aging Director Faith Laird for planning to take remaining CHOICE dollars and reallocating them to the Area Agencies on Aging.

Jennifer Fair the Executive Director of the American Diabetes Association stated that 9.6% of Hoosiers have diabetes and 29% of the population is obese. It is important to note that obesity is directly tied to Type II diabetes. Ms. Fair also noted that Indiana is currently the 32nd largest state.

The American Diabetes Association's goal is to stop the spread of diabetes. She also stressed the importance of educating people on lifestyle changes, educating diabetics on how to control their disease, and fighting for the rights of diabetics in the workplace and school system.

For additional information you can visit their website at www.diabetes.org

Towards the end of the meeting Mr. Stallons conducted a panel discussion on what challenges the aging network is currently facing. The topics of concern were transportation, housing, and wellness programs. The Commissioners concluded that every community in the state needs to advocate for each city to have a comprehensive plan that would include elderly-friendly characteristics.

With no further comments Noble Stallons adjourned the meeting with unanimous approval from the Commissioners.